THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) According to the information available from Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (National Accounts Division), the per captia income measured in terms of Net Domestic Products (NDP) was Rs. 1245 for the rural and Rs. 2888 for urban areas respectively in 1980-81, at current prices. The corresponding incomes were Rs. 5783 and Rs. 13525 for 1993-94 at current prices. No information giving the rural-urban differences in income level is available after 1993-94.

(b) The reasons for per capita income gap between rural and urban is due to the existence of differential resource base, productivity of the workers and the nature of economic activity in the rural areas *vis-a-vis* the urban areas.

(c) and (d) With a view to reduce the gap in income between the rural and urban population, the Ministry of Rural Development emphasis is on more employment opportunities to the rural poor through self and wage employment programmes namely, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and National Food for Work Programmes (NFFWP). Besides these, area development programmes and infrastructure creation programmes and provision of amenities also result in reducing the gap.

Scam in implementation of Employment Guarantee Scheme in Maharashtra

† 108. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scam of Rs. 9.1 crores has come to surface in the Solapur district of Maharashtra in the implementation of the Employment Guarantee Scheme;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received in regard to the irregularities being committed in other States of the country;

(c) the State-wise numbers thereof and details of the action taken; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether there is any mechanism in place to monitor and prevent such scams and to take action thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (d) The Government of Maharashtra has a wage employment Programme known as Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) being implemented in the rural areas of the State. This Programme is a State sector Programme of the Government of Maharashtra and the Centre has no role in the implementation of EGS in Maharashtra. As such, there is no information of any such scam available with this Ministry. No other State is implementing Employment Guarantee Programme at present.

Corruption in Regional Office of CAPART in Lucknow

† 3109. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers of Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology who have rendered financial work in spite of six months left in their retirement;

(b) the action taken by Government against said officers alongwith the names of these officers;

(c) whether Government are aware of the corruption prevalent in the Regional Office of CAPART Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh; if so, action being taken by Government against the employees involved in corruption; and

(d) the reasons for not providing second instalment to the institutions under Regional Office of CAPART, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and not appointing a monitor on their proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Only one officer has rendered financial work in spite of six months left in his retirement in the Regional Office of Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Techology (CAPART) at Lucknow.

(b) A complaint was received against Shri V.K. Babu, the then Member Convenor, Regional Committee, Lucknow regarding corruption in the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.